

Coming Up This Year

Free and Easy

April 27-29,
University of Alberta,
Edmonton

Plan now to attend our annual three-day event for teachers and education students. *Free and Easy* is just that. It's free: all expenses paid, plus substitute fee reimbursement and tuition rebate for early registrants. And it's easy: come for a day of fascinating workshops, speakers, and displays at the U of A; stay on for industry tours and an overnight on a working farm; complete an independent study project for credit in either the Faculty of Education or the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics. You can do one part, two parts, or all three – it's up to you! But register early because demand is high and space limited. **Deadline for registration is March 10.** See the enclosed brochure for further details.

Super Agriculture Ambassadors

Nominate a fellow educator for our Super Agriculture Ambassador Award. Or nominate yourself! Just send us a one-page description of how you integrate agriculture themes in your classroom. Ten finalists will be selected for interviews and two winners will be our guests at the National Agriculture Awareness Conference in Saskatoon. **Deadline for nominations is May 15.** Contact for further information, and send your nominations, to Cindy Dixon at our address on the back.

Agriculture Ambassadors Fair

May 2000 in Red Deer

A fun-filled day for students from area schools to learn about agriculture and how our food is produced. The fair is held at a different location each year. Students throughout Alberta can enter their projects: winners have their work displayed at the fair and receive cash prizes! Contact Cindy Dixon for prize lists and entry forms. **Deadline for entries is March 31.**

City Slickers Harvest

September 2000 in Airdrie and Stony Plain

Every year thousands of inner-city students in grades 4, 5, and 6 are given the opportunity to spend a day in the country. In addition to watching crops being harvested, they enjoy a variety of activities and displays and tour a working farm in the area. Participation is by invitation, with schools chosen on the basis of need. After the harvest, a portion of the crop is donated to local food banks on behalf of the students.

Look

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Resources!! Resources!!

Resources!!

and They're FREE!!



January 2000

New Resources – And They're Free!!

Blowing in the Wind

Division 2

Four brand-new lesson plans, each with multiple activity options, on the use of wind power in agriculture. A fun and interesting way to extend your student's knowledge of conservation, renewable resources, and the evolution of technology from pioneer times to present day.

Curriculum Fits: Grade 4 Social Studies (Alberta – Its Geography and People), Grade 4 Science (Building Devices that Move), Grade 5 Science (Wetland Ecosystems, Weather), Grade 5 Math (Graphing)

Available: immediately!

A Quick Dip in the Gene Pool (update)

Division 4

A new CD-Rom and Facilitator's Guide to update our popular multi-media package originally produced in 1996. A lot has changed in the fast-moving science of biotechnology in agriculture and food production! This resource provides an integrated approach to topics such as genetic engineering of plants and animals, genetically modified foods, and sustainable agriculture. Designed to develop critical thinking skills while building knowledge of important issues that affect us all.

Curriculum Fits: Division 4 Science, Language Arts, Social Studies, Career and Life Management

*Available: late spring
(request your copy now!)*

Teacher Handbook from 1990 Summer Agricultural Education Institute (reprint)

Divisions 1-4

Oldies but goodies, updated to reflect current programs of study. Activities for all grade levels in a range of subject areas including Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, Health, Art, Music, Agriculture and Home Economics. Created by teachers for teachers, these activities give you a wealth of ideas for exploring agricultural topics in your classroom.

Available: Spring of 2000

**Has the
Agriculture Ambassador
in your school changed?**

Please help us update our records.

**Phone or email changes to
Cindy Dixon at:**

Phone: (780) 427-4311

Email: cindy.dixon@agric.gov.ab.ca

The Flip Side of Agriculture



© TISSERAND HUCULAK

"Man... this flu season is getting to me. No wonder we're all so SAD!"

Flu Season on the Farm

At this time of year, a lot of us are fighting the flu. Antibiotics aren't much good at combating the flu and effective antiviral drugs, currently being introduced, are only effective if prescribed within the first 48 hours. However, there are ways to reduce your chances of getting the flu period, and they don't involve a needle either. Nutraceuticals that enhance the immune system can help both humans and animals ward off viruses.

A nutraceutical is a product that is isolated or purified from a food, marketed as an alternative medicine, and used to treat or prevent disease. Closely related are the so-called functional foods, which convey similar benefits, but more closely resemble conventional foods and form part of one's usual diet.

One nutraceutical that has been found to enhance the immune systems of both animals and people is whey protein. It is extracted from whey, the watery part of milk left over when cheese is made.

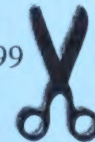
Dr. Paul Jelen, professor of food process engineering and dairy technology at the University of Alberta, is a fan of whey protein. He credits its muscle-regenerating properties with helping him to make a speedy recovery from hip replacement surgery. According to Dr. Jelen, "whey protein may be the best nutraceutical around."

It seems that a large part of the population shares his belief in nutraceuticals. An Angus-Reid poll done in 1997 indicated that 42% of Canadians have used alternative methods for treating illness and maintaining health. The Canadian nutritional market, including nutraceuticals, functional foods, herbs and dietary supplements, is currently valued at \$1 billion.

So even though it may not be possible to completely escape the winter blues, at least you can avoid some of the coughing and sneezing.

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A Partnership Creation of
Agriculture in the Classroom



Super Agriculture Ambassador Nomination Form

Teacher Name _____

School Address _____

Town/Province _____

Phone _____

Subjects _____

School Name _____

Postal Code _____

Grades taught _____

Complete this form and send it to us with a **brief summary** of your agriculture activities. We will select 20 candidates for a telephone interview. The final 2 selections will be made in June 2000.

Super Agriculture Ambassador Nominations

Agriculture in the Classroom Program, Alberta Agriculture, Food & Rural Development

Room 201, 7000 - 113 Street EDMONTON AB T6H 5T6

Phone: (403) 427-2171 Fax: (403) 422-7755

Websites Worth Watching

National Library of Canada
Bibliothèque nationale du Canada



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Here are some especially good websites we have discovered. Have a look and see if they might be of interest to your students.

Do you have a favorite website that you use in teaching or for background research? Send us the address and a bit about why you like it, and we'll share your discovery with other teachers in the next Apples for Teachers!

<http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/classroom/>

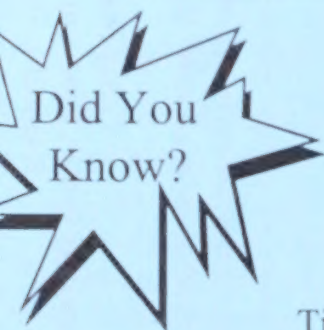
Our annual Agricultural Education Resource Listing is now on the Web. Over 400 resources available from Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, government agencies, educational organizations, and the agriculture industry. Many are free to teachers and students! Updated annually with new and exciting resources, including videos, software, books, brochures, newsletters, posters and tours.

www.accessexcellence.com/

Designed for high school biology and life sciences teachers and sponsored by the National Health Museum, a U.S. non-profit center for health education. Includes an excellent range of information, including the latest scientific discoveries, online projects, classroom "activities-to-go" and teaching strategies. Plus an almost limitless number of links and related sites, and an easy-to-use search engine. So much good stuff, you'll get lost in this one!

www.fourhcouncil.edu/

An interesting and well-designed site sponsored by the National 4-H Council (U.S.) Information on 4-H programs, scholarships, publications, and events. You don't have to live on the farm to be involved! 4-H projects range from livestock care to photography to outdoor recreation. Follow the link to Canada's 4-H homepage at www.4-h-canada.ca/ for information on 4-H programs in your area.



Tiger Woods *Professional Golfer*

When Tiger Woods was just a boy, he was asked what he thought about when he was about to hit the golf ball. "I think about where I want the ball to go," the future superstar answered.

Charles A. Lindbergh (1902-1974) *Made first solo transatlantic flight*

Charles A. Lindbergh was a passenger on one of the 747 jets to Europe out of New York. When the plane was airborne, the pilot introduced Lindbergh as a passenger without bothering to identify him further.

Lindbergh stood and nodded to his fellow passengers. As he sat down, he had a little trouble fastening his seat belt.

A flight hostess stepped up quickly, buckled the belt, and asked: "Is this your first crossing, Mr. Lindbergh?"

Charles Kettering (1876-1958) *Inventor*

Charles Kettering, the inventor, had a unique method of solving problems. He would break down each problem into the smallest possible subproblems. Then he did research to find out which subproblems had already been solved. He often found out what looked like a huge problem had previously been 98 percent solved by others. Then he tackled what was left.

